Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 09671 010527 Z

14
ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 EUR-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00 NSC-10

INRE-00 INR-09 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 IO-03

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 9671

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, MOPS VS
SUBJECT: SITREP FOR MAY 31, 1973

FOL TEL SENT ACTION IMMEDIATE SAIGON FROM CAN THO DTD MAY 31, 1973 REPEATED TO YOU FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L CAN THO 0373

LIMDIS

SUMMARY: DELTA MILITARY ACTIVITY WAS LIGHT MAY 30. DINH TUONG REPORTED A RECENT INCREASE IN VC/ NVA INCIDENTS. CHAU DOC WAS ON SEMI- ALERT. PRESIDENT THIEU PAID AN UNEXPECTED CALL TO MR IV MAY 30. SECURITY IN KIEN GIANG HAS REPORTEDLY IMPROVED, BUT NVA INFILTRATION THROUGH THAT PROVINCE CONTINUES. END SUMMARY.

1. SECURITY SITUATION: (A) VC/ NVA INITIATED INCIDENTS DROPPED OFF TO 29 MAY 30. THERE WERE 8 REPORTED GVN OPERATIONS, INCLUDING A VINH BINH SECTOR OPERATION WHICH CLAIMED 45 VC KIA. CORPS- WIDE GVN CASUALTIES WERE 13 KIA, 63 WIA, AND 1 MIA. THE OTHER SIDE LOST 87 KIA.
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PAGE 02 SAIGON 09671 010527 Z

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

(B) DINH TUONG ACTIVITY INCREASED MAY 28 AFTER SEVERAL DAYS WITH ONLY MINOR CONTACT. DINH TUONG SECTOR REPORTED 47 INCIDENTS FROM MAY 28 TO MAY 31. TWENTY- FIVE WERE DIRECTED AGAINST THE 10 TH REGIMENT. THE GVN HAS FARED WELL IN THE CONTACTS. SECTOR REPORTS 47 VC/ NVA KIA WHILE THE GVN SUFFERED 4 KIA AND 53 WIA. DINH TUONG PROVINCE CHIEF COL CHUONG VAN BONG EXPECTS A CONTINUING HIGH LEVEL OF ACTIVITYHOGD HAS CANCELLED ALL LEAVES.
(C) THE MEKONG CONVOY WHICH WENT TO PHNOM PENH MAY 28 SAILED BACK ACROSS THE VIET NAM BORDER AT 1940 HOURS MAY 30. THERE WERE SEVEN FREIGHTERS AND TANKERS AND ONE TUG. NO INCIDENTS OCCURRED IN VIETNAMESE WATERS.
(D) THE CHAU DOC VICE CONSUL REHORTED TIGHTENED PROVINCIAL SECURITY IN EXPECTATION OF VC/ NVA ATTACKS PRIOR TO THE " REAL" CEASEFIRE. PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE SOURCES INDICATE POSSIBLE ATTACKS AT TINH BIEN DISTRICT TOWN ON THE CAMBODIAN BORDER AND IN NORTHERN AN PHU DISTRICT. SECTOR FORCES HAVE NOT GONE ON THE OFFENSIVE, BUT ARE STRENGTHENING EXISTING POSITIONS BY PUTTING OUT AMBUSHES, AND MOVING UNITS BACK SLIGHTLY TO BE IN GOOD DEFENSIVE POSITIONS.

2. GA ACTIVITIES: PRESIDENT THIEU APPEARED UNEXPECTEDLY MAY 30 AT THE CAN THO THERMAL POWER STATION DEDICATION. HE ALSO VISITED VI THANH, TAN CHAU, SADEC, AND HONG NGU. THIEU SPOKE BRIEFLY AT THE CAN THO CEREMONY BUT SAID NOTHING NOTEWORTHY. HE CONFERRED WITH THE 21 ST DIVISION COMMANDER IN VI THANH. IN TAN CHAU THIEU ATTENDED A BRIEFING, VISITED MORTAR- DAMAGED HOUSES, AND CHATTED WITH CURIOUS ONLOOKERS.

3. SELECTED PROVINCE COMMENT: KIEN GIANG: SECURITY HAS GENERALLY IMPROVED IN KIEN GIANG' S NORTHERN THREE DISTRICTS-- KIEN THANH, KIEN LUONG, AND HA TIEN. HOWEVER, THERE IS STILL A RELATIVELY HEAVY AMOUNT TH NVA INFILTRATION DOWN ROUTE I- C THROUGH THE WESTERN PORTIONS OF THESE DISTRICTS. ATTEMPTS BY AN GIANG TERRITORIAL FORCES STATIONED IN A SPECIAL AREA OF OPERATIONS IN KIEN THANH TO STOP THE INFILTRATION HAVE RESULTED IN CONTINUOUS PLATOON-- AND COMPANY-- SIZED CONTACTS AND OUTPOST HARASSMENT. TWO VC CHAU HA PROVINCE UNITS, THE A-11 AND A-12 BATTALIONS, EACH WITH ABOUT 150 MEN, TRY TO KEEP THE KIEN TYHANH INFILTRATION ROUTE OPEN BY TYING DOWN THE AN GIANG TROOPS.

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THE INCREASED NUMBER OF CONTACTS AND CASUALTIES ON BOTH SIDES REPORTED IN MAY PROBABLY REFLECTS INCREASED INFILTRATION. TERRITORIAL FORCES OFFICERS ESTIMATE THE NUMBER OF INFILTRATORS FROM MID- MARCH TO MID- MAY AT 200 NVA TROOPS.
BARNES UNQUOTE
WHITEHOUSE

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Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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